

**The Grand Review
Brandy Station
Foundation
November 2011**



President: Joseph W. "Joe" McKinney Vice President: Robert L. Jones

Treasurer: Gary Wilson

Secretary: Peggy Misch Board of Directors: Barry Atchison, Scott Aylor, Jane Brookins, Helen Geisler, Eugene Hankinson, Cecilia Schneider-Vial, and Tony Seidita.

BSF Holiday Open House at the Graffiti House December 10th From 1-4PM



Santa Claus in the Hall of Honor at the Graffiti House last December.

The Brandy Station Foundation is hosting its annual Holiday Open House at the Graffiti House (19484 Brandy Road, Brandy Station, 540-727-7718) on Saturday, December 10, 2011, from 1:00-4:00 PM. Please stop by to see Civil War graffiti, enjoy holiday fare, and find gift items for sale, including Civil War books and DVDs, Civil war prints, children's gifts, and Graffiti House items. Santa Claus will be stopping by in the afternoon and the Wilderness Run players will entertain us with their beautiful music.



The Graffiti House is looking ready for winter with its new paint and repairs. A big "THANK YOU" from the Brandy Station Foundation to the many supporters who responded to our appeal for help to fund much needed work on the exterior of the Graffiti House! The house has been repainted; rotting wood has been replaced; leaks have been caulked, and doors will be replaced

Foundation News by BSF President Joe McKinney

Dear Members and Friends of the BSF,

First, let me assure you that the Graffiti House came through our recent earthquake with its plaster walls intact. Also, although the water table is very high in Brandy Station, we suffered no damage from the heavy rains that accompanied Hurricane Irene.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, in September we hosted our first "Fall Festival," the successor to our annual picnic. The event at the Old House Vineyards in Stevensburg

featured barbeque, a bluegrass band, re-enactors, a wine tasting, and a wide selection of crafters. Those who attended told us they had a lot of fun, and we plan to build upon the new format next year.

Recently we've had three paranormal investigative groups each spend a night at the Graffiti House, and all reported that they experienced paranormal events. This has generated a lot of interest, prompting us to advertise this year's annual Halloween event as "Ghosts of the Graffiti House." More than eighty visitors braved the late-October snowstorm on the evening of October 29 to trick-or-treat, hear electronic voice phenomena recorded in the house by the investigators, and tell ghost stories.

Our fund drive was very successful, and I thank all of you for your generous donations. With your contributions and the matching gift from our anonymous donor, we awarded a contract for the renovation of the exterior of the house, and, as you can see from the photos in this issue, work is well under way. For colors we settled on off-white with deep red trim, and think it looks very attractive, as well as being more traditional. In their first week of work, the contractors went through seven cases of calk, and our volunteers hope that the Graffiti House will be less drafty this winter.

Many of you may have heard of the "controversy" over Mr. Tony Troilo's pond on Flat Run, just to the west of Fleetwood Hill. We are very happy to report that the issues over the pond have been resolved, and that the outcome is very favorable to the BSF. An article in this *Grand Review* provides details.

Looking ahead, we plan to bring back Mr. Christopher Mills, our conservator, to further stabilize the plaster in the Graffiti House, and to hopefully to uncover more graffiti. Also, we are busy organizing our annual Christmas Open House for the afternoon of December 10. We encourage all of you to attend so that you can see first-hand the work that has been done on the house and enjoy the company of your fellow-members. We guarantee you a good time.

Take care,
Joe McKinney

Three More Acres on Fleetwood Hill Preserved

In early spring Mr. Tony Troilo, who owns the property on Fleetwood Hill that saw the most intense fighting on June 9, 1863, began work to expand his pond along Flat Run just to the west of Fleetwood Hill. Before starting work, Mr. Troilo checked with the Culpeper County

office of planning and zoning and was informed that no additional permits would be required. That information was incorrect.

Under the Clean Water Act, a permit is required from the US Army Corps of Engineers before a free-flowing stream can be dammed. Additionally, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires the Corps of Engineers to assess the effects of a project on historical resources when considering a request for permit.

On May 13, the Corps of Engineers issued a stop-work order to Mr. Troilo. After learning that he had not received the necessary permits, Mr. Troilo voluntarily agreed to remove the pond and restore Flat Run and its wetlands to pre-construction conditions. Additionally, during archeological monitoring of site stabilization measures at the work site, fill dirt several inches deep was moved onto roughly three-tenths of an acre of property owned by the BSF and under protective easement with the Virginia Department of Historical Resources. Mr. Troilo offered to either remove the fill or, if preferred, leave the fill in place and seed it with grass.

On July 26, representatives of the BSF, the Corps of Engineers, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources met with Mr. Troilo in Richmond to discuss remediation measures for adverse affects on the historic property—the site of a major Civil War Battle—and the encroachment on the BSF land. At the meeting, Mr. Troilo offered to convey to the BSF approximately 3.1 acres of his property lying to the west of Flat Run, thereby making the stream the property line between Mr. Troilo and the BSF. The Corps of Engineers and VDHR representatives considered the offer most generous, as did the BSF, and we agreed to accept the conveyance. Finally, the consensus among attendees was that attempts to remove the fill on the encroached property would risk damage to the underlying soil, and it was therefore better to leave the fill in place and seed it. These steps and a plan for restoring the stream bed have since been formally agreed upon by all the affected parties.

Once Mr. Troilo has restored Flat Run, the new property line can be surveyed and the 3.1 acres conveyed to our organization, an event that should be completed within the next few months. This will increase our ownership of land on the avenue of approach used by Sir Percy Wyndham on the morning of June 9 to 36 acres. Acquiring this property is in keeping with the BSF's strategic goal of preserving key battlefield land and opening it to the public. We credit this positive outcome to two factors: Mr. Troilo's positive approach to fully resolving issues associated with his pond; and, the decision by the board of the BSF to maintain a professional and cooperative relationship with Mr. Troilo throughout the process.

We are very pleased that this unfortunate situation was brought to an amicable resolution, and we are very grateful to Mr. Tony Troilo for his generous offer. We trust that you share our views.

Foundation Fundraiser at Old House Vineyards



The Foundation hosted a family festival at Old House Vineyards ,18351 Corkys Lane, Culpeper, on September 18th At left: re-enactors Susan Williams and David Reeves pose in front of the vineyards; at right the blue grass band Mountain Remedy performs.

Paranormal Filming at the Graffiti House



R.I.P. Files cameraman Jamison Forkenbrock filming re-enactors Ray Mishoe and Bill Rose of the Orphan Brigade.

A paranormal investigation of "The Graffiti House" in Brandy Station was filmed on Saturday, October 22nd by the crew of "The R.I.P. Files". Re-enactors Ray Mishoe and Bill Rose of Orphan Brigade Camp #2166 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans participated as well as Brandy Station Foundation interpreters who have experienced paranormal activity at the Graffiti House. Pat Marin is the executive producer of "The R.I.P. Files" and Jim Marin, her husband, is the director. This series will hopefully be on digital and broadcast networks domestically and internationally. Pat Marin and Lisa Linden are co-founders of R.I.P. which stands for Research & Investigation of the Paranormal.



R.I.P. Files director Jim Marin with two of the featured "cast": Helen Geisler of the Brandy Station Foundation and re-enactor Bill Rose of the Orphan Brigade.

Dolson Flag on Display at the Graffiti House in first year of Civil War Sesquicentennial



Re-enactors from the 124th New York Infantry, "the Orange Blossoms" the Graffiti House in 2009, when

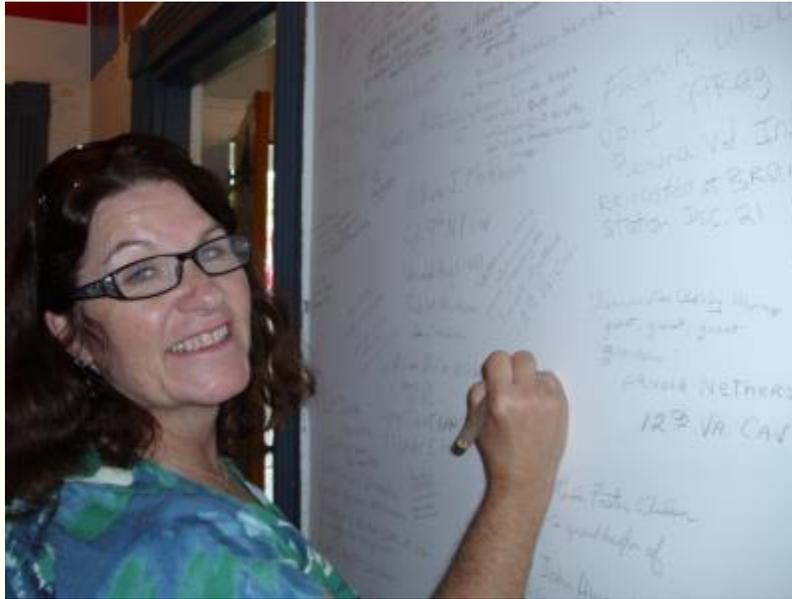
the Dolson Flag was first loaned to the Graffiti House for exhibition

In this first year of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the Graffiti House has been grateful to exhibit--for the second time--a significant Federal artifact from the American Civil War – The Dolson Flag. The Brandy Station Foundation thanks the Neversink Valley Area Museum (NVAM) of Cuddiebackville, New York for the loan of the flag for exhibition

The NVAM is a non-profit organization established to preserve, document and interpret the history of the Neversink River Valley of Orange County, New York. More information may be obtained at www.neversinkmuseum.org. The flag was carried by the 124th New York Infantry during the war and is now called the Dolson flag, after the owner, Theophilus Dolson, Company E, 124th NY. Theo had two other brothers who served in the 124th, Jeremiah and William. The 124th New York Infantry, also called the “Orange Blossoms”, participated in many of the crucial fights with the Army of the Potomac, also with the distinction of having participated in the Battle of Brandy Station, the largest cavalry battle during the Civil War.

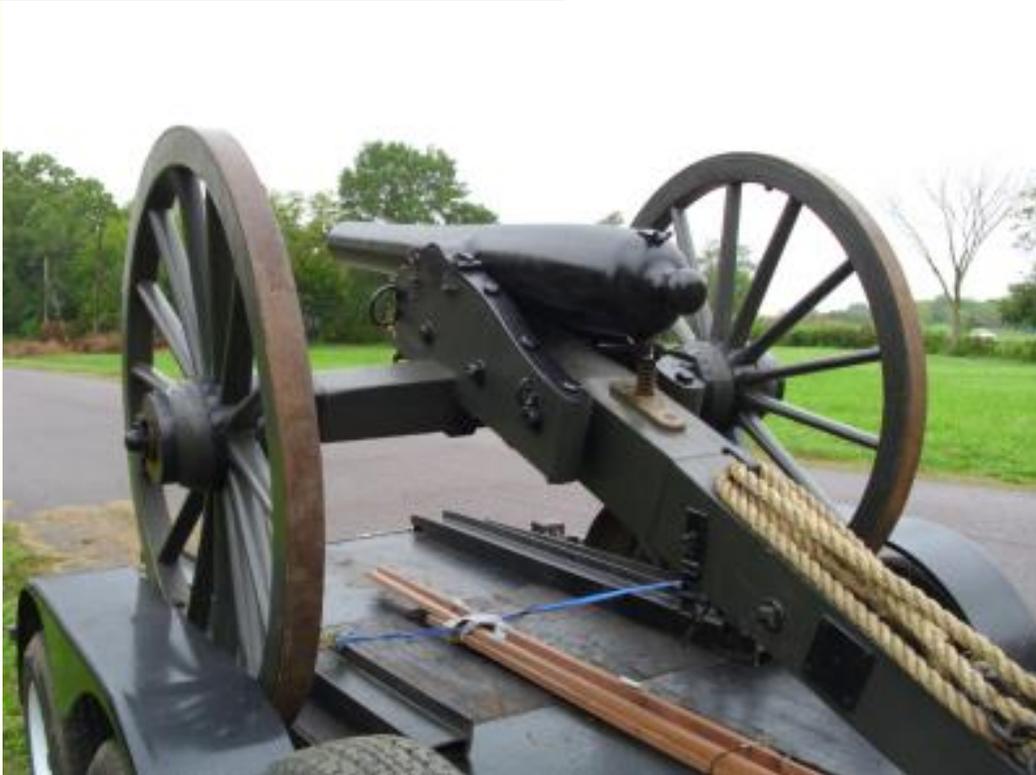
The Soldiers from Orange County, New York, fought in the fields of St. James Church under the direction of General John Buford. A few short months later, the 124th wintered just north of Culpeper on what was then the Samuel Rixey farm. The flag was sewn by Liana Dolson in 1861 when she was living in Wallkill, New York. At the time of the flag’s creation, Ms. Dolson was 75 years old and within a year, three of her family would enlist into the 124th New York Volunteer Infantry (the Orange Blossom Regiment). The flag construction is of cotton with a very unusual double sided canton (the blue field) design. When viewed from the front (obverse) of the flag, one sees 21 stars arranged as an exploding galaxy. However when viewed from the reverse flag side, one sees 13 stars arranged as a St. Andrew’s Cross. One opinion for this star depiction is that the flag is designed to acknowledge the secession of the states loyal to the Confederacy as opposed to those states still loyal to the Union. Another opinion is that the flag star arrangement represents the 13 original states and the later growth of 21 states to form the Union in 1861. The flag is believed to be a “home front” flag but some home front flags were carried to the war as personal flags by individual soldiers.

Descendant of George Armstrong Custer signs the Hall of Honor



On September 24th, Susan Young of Ohio signed the Graffiti House Hall of Honor as a descendant of George Armstrong Custer.

Civil War Gun From the Battle of Brandy Station

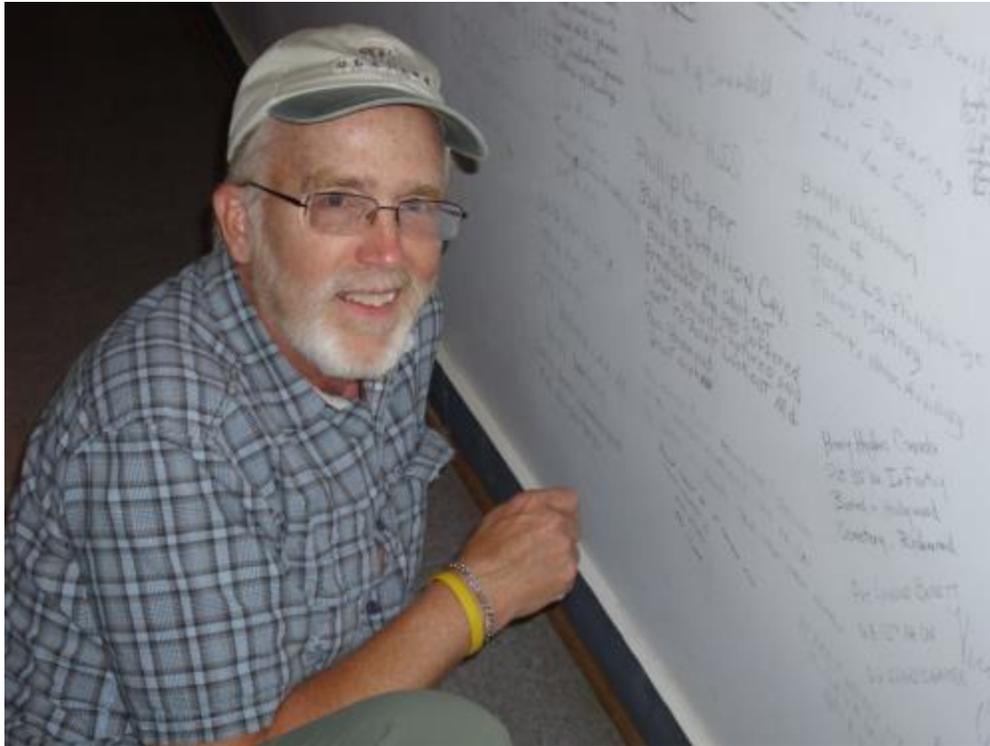


The Graffiti House in Brandy Station had two special visitors on Sunday, September 25th: Ron Cleveland, owner of an original 1862 3-inch ordinance rifle, and John Pelham Johnston, great-great grandson of Philip Preston Johnston, whose section of Breathed's Battery fired the gun during the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863. Johnston's battery was deployed on Yew Ridge, supporting Rooney Lee's brigade. The 1862 3-inch gun used at the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863 by Philip Preston Johnston alongside Brandy Station Foundation President Joe McKinney, John Pelham Johnston, and Ron Cleveland. The gun was manufactured at Waterford Arsenal near Philadelphia. It is a 817-lb. gun with a range of about one-and-a half miles.

Cleveland lives in Michigan and Johnston in California.



The gun was at Warrenton Heritage Days and Buckland Farm on Saturday. Cleveland brought Johnston to Brandy Station for a tour of the Graffiti House and a tour by Brandy Station Foundation President Joe McKinney of the Brandy Station Battlefield to see the location where the gun was positioned on June 9,1863.



John Pelham Johnston, great-great grandson of Philip Preston Johnston,, signs the Hall of Honor at the Graffiti House

BRANDY STATION FOUNDATION – 2011 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the Foundation.

_____ \$25 Membership Additional Donation \$ _____

Name:

Address:

Email Address:

Mail to: Brandy Station Foundation, P.O. Box 165, Brandy Station, Virginia 22714

Let me know how I can volunteer. _____

Phone Numbers: Daytime_____ Night_____

Send my newsletter by email or postal service. (circle one)

The Brandy Station Foundation is a 501(c)-3 non-profit group dedicated to preserving the natural and historic resources of the Brandy Station area of Culpeper County, Virginia. It relies on tax-deductible donations to meet its goals. More information at: www.brandystationfoundation.com